SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

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JUIN 26 1969
Print Copy

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Following is President Ho Chi Minh's New Year's message :

Beloved compatriots and fighters,

1968 was a year of very glorious victories for our armed forces and people throughout the country. The U.S. imperialists has to end unconditionally their war of destruction in the North.

Since early Spring 1968, our compatriots and fighters in heroic South Viet Nam have continually attacked and continually risen up, and have recorded very brilliant victories.

Certainly the U.S. aggressors will meet with complete faillure. Our armed forces and people throughout the country, dashing forward with the impetus of victories, will surely win complete victory.

On the occasion of New Year 1969, on behalf of the people throughout our country, I wish to convey my warm greetings and thanks to the brotherly socialist countries, friendly countries and peace-and-justice-loving people in the world, including the progressive people in the United States, for their whole-hearted support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

I cordially send my best wishes of solidarity, struggle and success in the New Year to our compatriots, fighters and cadres and Chinese residents in both South and North Viet Nam, and to our fellow-countrymen living abroad.

I dedicate the following lines to the new Spring :

Last year was full of glorious victories.
This year the forefront's sure to win still bigger ones

For Independence, for Freedom,
et's fight so the Yanks quit, and the puppets topple.

Forward ! Fighters, countrymen !
North and South reunited, could there be happier Spring !

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM NFL LEADER TO PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

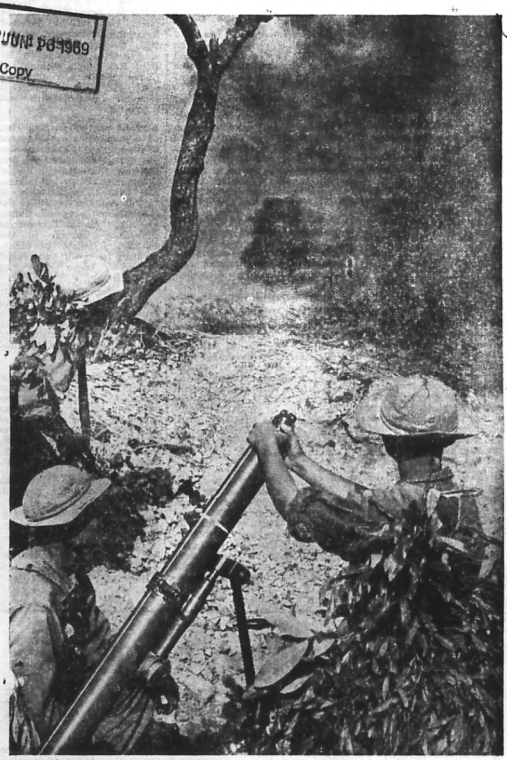
Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee has sent a New Year message to President Ho Chi Minh wishing him the best of health and a long life.

The message drew a balance sheet of the victories won by the people in both zones of the country in the fight against the U.S. aggressors.

It continued :

"On behalf of the 14 million South Vietnamese people, we warmly acclaim the glorious victories of the North Vietnamese armed forces and people. We wish to express hereby our gratitude to you and to our 17 million kith-and-kin in the North. The South Vietnamese armed forces and people are deeply conscious that every victory of the North is a strong encouragement for them, and every victory they win here is organically linked with the heartfelt and devoted assistance to their North Vietnamese compatriots and with the great solicitude and encouragement on your part. The U.S. imperialists have failed in the North. They have suffered ignominious setbacks in the South, but bellicose and perfidious by nature, they have not yet given up their aggressive design and dark colonialist schemes. Though having to stop unconditionally its bombardments on the whole territory of the North, the U.S. continues encroaching upon the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

(*Continued on page 7*)



PLAF artillery pounding a U.S.-puppet strong lair
Photo : G.P.A.

Our Editorial:

The U.S. must immediately remove the obstacles to the restoration of peace in Viet Nam.

(page 4)

21 TIMES 21 *or* PHAN HANH SON'S *marvellous exploits*

(page 6)

NFL SPOKESMAN HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

TRAN HOAI NAM, spokesman for the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation to the four-delegation conference on a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem, held a news conference in Paris on January 3, according to GPA.

Tran Hoai Nam denounced the U.S. and the Saigon administration for persisting in their military activities during the New Year's day and intensifying terror raids, thus perpetrating new barbarous crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

He said: While the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, on order from the NFL Central Committee, suspended for three days their military attacks on the U.S., puppet and satellite troops, the U.S. and Saigon administration stepped up their "emergency pacification" campaign, conducted "sweeps and searches" in both the town and the countryside, increased their air and artillery bombardments and toxic chemical sprays, and barbarously suppressed all struggles for peace of the people in the areas still under the enemy's control, and searched and arrested thousands of people during the year-end days.

In Paris, the U.S. and Saigon administration kept demanding for a "two-sided conference", thus delaying the four-delegation conference to discuss a peacefull settlement of the Viet Nam problem.

Tran Hoai Nam laid bare the lack of goodwill on the part of the U.S. government which still rejected the fair and reasonable proposal of the DRVN. That proposal agreed upon by the NFL, was for the use of unsplit round table at which each delegation may take a seat of its choice.

During the January 2 meeting with Ambassador Ha Van Lau, Cyrus Vance, deputy-head of the U.S. delegation suggested many types of table, all of which merely aimed at materializing the "two-sided conference" character which was rejected by the DRVN and the NFL.

Tran Hoai Nam pointed out the goodwill for peace of the South Vietnamese people and the NFL and reiterated their determination to carry on their just struggle against U.S. aggression, till complete victory.

Answering questions put by newsmen, Tran Hoai Nam emphasized that the NFL had appointed two months ago a delegation to Paris to attend the four-delegation conference on Viet Nam with goodwill and a serious attitude, and that the delegation of the NFL as well as that of the DRVN Government, was ready to attend on any day the conference to find a peaceful solution to the Viet Nam problem.

But, he stressed, due to the lack of goodwill on the part of the U.S. and to the obstruction by the Saigon administration, the Paris conference on Viet Nam could not be convened yet. The U.S. and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for this, Tran Hoai Nam added.

● Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the SVN NFL, has sent a message to Dr Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, President of the Republic of Cuba, and Major Fidel Castro Ruz, First secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and Prime Minister, greeting Cuba's 10th National Day.

For his part, Mr Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the External Relations Commission of the NFL Central Committee has also sent a message to Mr Raul Roa Garcia wishing the Cuban people new successes and the Cuban Foreign Minister good health and happiness.

● President Nguyen Huu Tho, on December 31, 1968, sent a message to Chairman Mao Tse-tsung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Lin Piao, Vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Chou En-lai Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, greeting China's successful hydrogen bomb test on December 27.

A message of congratulations has also been sent by Tran Nam Trung, chairman of the Military Commission of the NFL Central Committee, to Lin Piao, Minister of National Defence of the PRC.

● Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the SVNNFL Central Committee, has sent a message to Ismail Al Azhari, Chairman of the Supreme Council of State of the Republic of Sudan, greeting the latter's 13th National Day (January 1st).

● Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho has sent a message to Kenneth Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia, congratulating him on his re-election to the presidency.

● The Giron Unit of the SVN People's Liberation Armed Forces has sent a letter of congratulations to Major Raul Castro, Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, on the occasion of the 10th National Day of the Republic of Cuba.

● In a message sent to the Thailand Patriotic Front on the occasion of the latter's 4th founding anniversary on December 1st, the SVN Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, affiliated to the SVNNFL, wished "the people and patriotic armed forces of Thailand many great victories in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys — the Thanom-Praphas clique".

NFL'S ACTIVITIES

● At the invitation of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the SVN NFL has sent a delegation to attend the celebrations of the 10th National Day of the Republic of Cuba (January 1st). The delegation, led by Nguyen Van Quang, member of the Central Committee of the SVN NFL, includes Hoang Bich Son, member of the CC of the SVN NFL, and Nguyen Minh Tua, Hero of the SVN People's Liberation Armed Forces.

● A delegation of the SVN Liberation Federation of Trade Unions visited Denmark on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the SVN NFL. It also visited on December 20 the "BV" shipyard, famous for its guerilla activities during the occupation of the country by the German fascists. On December 21, the delegation called on the Metallurgical Trade Union and met with many intellectuals, parliamentarians, writers and journalists.

● A delegation of the SVN Liberation Students' Union led by Mme Nguyen Ngoc Dung, member of the Union's Executive Committee, attended the Conference of the French National Union of Student's which opened on December 21 in Marseille. In a speech made at the opening session, Nguyen Ngoc Dung denounced the present terror campaign unleashed by the U.S. imperialist and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique against the townspeople in South Viet Nam, especially students. She laid stress on the determination of the students and youth and the entire people of SVN to fight the U.S. aggressors till final victory.

● A delegation of the SVN NFL headed by Hoang Bich Son, member of the Front's Central Committee, arrived in Rome on December 18 to attend the Congress of the Italian Proletarian Unified Socialist Party. On the afternoon of the same day, the delegation left for Naples to attend the Congress of the IPUSP, where it was greeted with a long standing ovation.

On December 20, a message of congratulations from Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, was read at the Congress, which also received gifts from the NFL.

While in Italy, the delegation called on the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party and the Italian Proletarian Unified Socialist Party, the Italian Committee for solidarity with Viet Nam and the Italian Women's Union.

● The closing session of the 21st Conference of the Federation of Students of Black Africa in France (FEANF), held in Paris at the end of December was attended by Dr Le Van Loc, representing the South Vietnamese students who was warmly welcomed by all delegates.

RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE

ABOUT thirty billion dollars a year and hundreds of thousands of American lives wasted in an illegal and immoral war have not enabled Washington to reap anything else than growing losses. The economy and finance of the United States and social life in this country have experienced serious upheavals as a result of the disastrous war in Viet Nam, not to mention the indelible stain which smears for ever the honour of the American nation.

Since the generalized offensive and simultaneous uprising of the PLAF and people of South Viet Nam in spring 1968, the failure suffered by the Pentagon has become obvious. The Thieu - Ky - Huong puppet administration, its instrument of aggression, proves to be incapable of saving it from defeat, being just in a position to give it a hand in the massacre of the population and the devastation of the land. The lackeys, severely punished, share the lot of their masters, lapse into decomposition and crumble at a quick tempo.

Confronted with the victorious resistance of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam as well as the strong pressure of the American and world peoples, Washington has been compelled to accept to talk with the NFL so as to find a political solution to the conflict. The Front has expounded its correct position and shown its goodwill. On the other hand, the U.S. leaders have been seeking by every means at their command to delay the opening of the planned conference, especially by puting on their feet the corrupt traitors Thieu - Ky - Huong with whose collusion they wrangle over procedural questions. They cling to the idea of a bipartite conference whereas four delegations are actually in presence. By refusing against logic to recognize the NFL as an independent party entering the conference room on an equal footing with the others, they attempt to mask the just character of the South Vietnamese people's resistance and to deny the Front - their authentic and qualified representative - its role as the organizer of this resistance. On the field, they intensify the hostilities and pile up crimes against our people.

The initiative, however, is held by the NFL on all fronts. It extends its control over almost all the rural, mountain and coastal regions, control which is effective even in many urban districts. In Saigon itself, the enemy's last hide-out, neither the U.S. aggressors nor their henchmen, can enjoy any measure of safety. Didn't the late Robert Kennedy say in San Francisco, in course of his presidential election campaign, that the "Viet Cong"—the only authentic national force in South Viet Nam — had never ceased to gain in strength? (UPI, May 31, 1968).

Thieu—Ky—Huong, on the other hand, form just a gang of traitors, corrupt adventurers, smugglers and thieves — "little tinhorn dictators" who live on Vietnamese and American blood. Our people pillory them. Senator E. Gruening deems that they cannot survive twenty-four hours without U.S. troops and dollars. They dread peace and are afraid of their own people. War is their single *raison d'être*. On December 29 last year, Samdec Norodom Sihanouk said in Phnom Penh, "At the Paris Conference the Thieu—Ky—Huong clique will represent themselves only, and are by no means competent to represent the South Vietnamese people". The Chief of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia added: "Cambodia asserts that the delegations of the government of the DRVN and of the South Viet Nam FNL alone represent the Vietnamese people and are qualified to express the latter's viewpoints at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam."

Clearly enough, blinded by their stubborness and bellicosity, the U.S. leaders do not want to face the facts. They harbour illusions over the possibility of turning South Viet Nam into an American neo-colony. Their stepping up of the aggressive war, nevertheless, plunges them deeper and deeper into a quagmire. They cannot over look the role of the the National Front for Liberation.

Using tergiversations to delay the Paris Conference does tally with their repeatedly professed desire to search for "peace in honour"; it is merely to oppose the aspirations for peace of the Vietnamese and American and world peoples.

Washington bears full responsibility for the consequences of its unjustifiable acts.

NAM HOAI THANH

IN BRIEF

● Following recent strikes at the Binh Tay brewery, the Cogodo paper mill, the Grall hospital, the Mitac tobacco factory... Saigon workers and employees have intensified their struggle for democratic liberties, improved loving conditions, the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, and the formation of a peace cabinet.

● Workers and employees of transport services along the Phu Tho Hoa-Saigon line have protested against the stoppage of traffic along that line ordered by the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique. This arbitrary measure taken by the puppet administration has throw hundreds of them out of work.

● Carrying on its struggle started on December 22, 1968, the Grall hospital workers' union recently went on strike to demand a wage increase.

● More than 300 representatives of Saigon business circles recently held an extraordinary session at the Saigon chamber of Commerce to demand that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique cancel its fascist law imposing heavy taxation on licenced merchants.

● 2,600 workers and employees of "Air Viet Nam" demand payment of a 13th month's salary for 1968.

● Workers and employees of the Sogiesi manufactory company (Gia Dinh) demand a 50% wage increase paid leave, and social and family allowances.

At present, the abovementioned workers' struggles are being carried on in Saigon with the full support of the city people and other workers' organisations.

1968 A year of urban people's crushing uprisings and continuous attacks

IN the course of the sweeping military operations launched on the first days of the Lunar New Year in 1968, our urban population had risen up and brought their worthy contribution to the most resounding victories thus far recorded by our armed forces and people.

In Saigon, Hue, Danang as in all the forty-four cities and provincial capitals and a hundred district towns, millions of people turned out into the streets for fighting or serving the fight. The NFL flag's appearance over public offices, military positions and leading organs was a great exhortation for the citizens who had been so far waiting for the Revolution. Thousands of youths, students and pupils eagerly enlisted in the PLAF and self-defence units to hunt down die-hard cruel agents and valiantly fought on their home streets. Old-aged men and children, unable to handle guns, actively took part in sentry duty, defence-works building, transportation, supplying and first aid. The so-called Independence Palace, Inter-arms General Staff, General Police Department, Radio Station, U.S. Embassy in Saigon, as well as administrative offices, police and military stations, U.S. and puppet barracks and blockhouses were repeatedly assailed or occupied by the people and armed forces acting in close coordination. The U.S. puppets' stifling grip was shattered. The people rose up, brought the situation under their control and set up the revolutionary power in many areas including HUE and several districts of SAIGON city.

Emerging from the great fight were the brilliant example of eleven girls in HUE, who had heroically pushed back a U.S. battalion counter-attack and killed 120 GIs; the glorious exploit of fifteen teenfighters in SAIGON, who had put up a fierce resistance to a thousand enemy troops in Tan Son Nhut airport, the valorous bravery of a girl Phan thi Oanh-who, while fighting and wresting guns from the enemy, had managed proselyte puppet soldiers into deserters, participate in political struggle and taught her countryfellows how to protect themselves from the adversary's bombs and shells.

Innumerable were the citizens who warmly welcomed the PLAF fighters and the NFL cadres. Reflecting this striking reality the French Combat, in its issue of February 2, 1968, wrote: "what has happened in Saigon suffices to show that the SVN FNL has, in a very large measure, gained all strata in South Viet Nam".

In those days of resounding exploits the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being. Thanks to its clearsighted and fair program of action, it has won general approval and warm welcome from all urban strata and has rapidly rallied various social classes and religious communities, even many elements belonging to puppet administration and army. For the whole year and with an invincible mettle, the urban people have pushed forward political struggles aimed at demanding that the U.S. and puppets, stop bombing and shelling populated areas, that human and material losses be compensated and that the people be allowed to move freely to help one another. At the same time like a wild animal suffering from deadly wounds the U.S.- puppets furiously resorted to counter-attacks, repressions and massive arrests. Effervescent counter-terrorism drives unfolded: open the movement, on June 16, 1968, the Saigon Students' Union Executive Committee on behalf of their 25,000 comrades in 9 universities, issued a statement demanding that the U.S. put an end to their aggressive war in Viet Nam. Very soon afterwards, on July 7, 1968, 18 Saigon students started a hunger strike and open discussions to condemn the barbarous assassination of their comrade Trần Quoc Chuong, and protest the laws on "General Mobilization" and "war situation", the arrests of and sentences passed on the students Nguyen thanh Công, Nguyen van Chinh, Duong van Dang, Dao thi Nguyet Thanh etc... On the night of December 24, students and pupils turned out into the streets for a big demonstration, displaying banners and chanting slogans requesting the restoration of peace, serious talks with the NFL, the overthrow of Thieu-Ky-Huong and the formation of a peace cabinet. While the demonstration was moving through Saigon streets, NFL flags made their appearance. Struck with dismay the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique ordered their police to bar the demonstrators, arrest and carry away about a hundred students. By doing so, the U.S. valets poured oil on flames.

When the U.S. imperialists' failure compelled them to an unconditional cessation of bombing over the whole territory of the DRVN, and peacetalks with the NFL, a series of struggle drives flored up in South Vietnamese cities with slogans calling for peace and talks with the NFL. Discussions took place in public places with tens of thousands of participants, angrily denouncing Thieu-Ky-Huong as a band of obdurate and bellicose traitors seeking to delay the Paris four-delegation conference for the settlement of the Vietnamese problem. Puppet civil servants and soldiers also joined the people in the struggle.

During the last months of 1968, the workers of many public and private factories in Saigon and the USAID, an American office, went into fierce struggles, for economic and democratic rights and against dismissal. In cooperation with the above drives the urban people have feverishly risen up against the arbitrary price rise of rice and other foods tuffs, which has rendered the living conditions much harder. A good many overtly declared that there is only one way left to end the present miserable living conditions and other evils and that is to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, set up a peace cabinet and enter into talks with the NFL. In spite of their extremely atrocious repressions, the ruling traitors remain powerlers in the face of this situation. On the contrary, the more they push up reprisals, the more they fan the flames of the struggle.

In close coordination with armed attacks and agitation among enemy troops the urban population's struggle has made ever more, secure steps in depth and breadth, and taken on varied and vivid forms. This struggle which points its spearhead at the U.S. aggressors and their puppets will assuredly bring a worthy contribution to the fight for national salvation of the entire people of South Viet Nam.

LONG CHAU

GPA annnounces

On the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, *Giai Phong* Press Agency (GPA) has decided to release daily as from January 1st, 1969 one English language news bulletin by Radio Teletype Transmission (RTT) from 22 to 24 hrs Indo-China time, or from 15 to 17 hrs GMT, on two frequencies:

GPA 3: 8248 Kcs, and
GPA 5: 10424 Kcs,

With the following characteristics:

— Speed: 50 baud,
— Shift keying: 500.

We will greatly appreciate any remark by our monitors on technical reception conditions as well as on the content and other aspects of our newscasts.

VO NHON LY
Director,
Giai Phong Press Agency (GPA)

Demonstration starged against the U.S.-puppets by Saigon students and people.
Photo: GPA

LAMENTABLE FAILURE OF THE "EMERGENCY PACIFICATION PROGRAM"

IN three successive days — November 18, 19 and 20, 1968 the Saigon administration discussed the "implementation of the emergency pacification task". This is nothing less than a scheme of brutal repression within the framework of the U.S. war plan aimed at wresting back part of the countryside under the people's power. Half of U.S. operations, wrote the American Time (Dec. 20), are to support the said pacification plan.

Parallel to the "emergency pacification plan" the puppet administration is doing its best to put into effect the so-called Operation Eagle was termined by annihilating patriots and pushing a-head savage mop-ups in many regions of South Viet Nam.

As on "experiment" of the "emergency pacification plan", enemy forces undertook bloody "sweeps" in many places of Dien Ban district, Quang Nam province, from Nov.20 to Dec.6, 1968. In about two weeks and in an area a little larger than 350 Km with some 7,000 people, American, puppet and Pak Jung Hi troops carried out several operations and killed 470 civilians, tortured more than 100, plundered and forced to leave their homes well over 2,500.

Mopping-up operations also took place in many days on end in Cam lo, in areas South of the DMZ (Quang Tri), in Dung Island (Soctrang), Cai Lay (My Tho), Tay Ninh, Camau and other provinces. Heavy losses in property and human lives were caused to the local population. The enemy completely swept 57 out of the 76 hamlets of Phong Dien district (Thua-Thien), levelled entire villages with bulldozers and herded 13,000 people into concentration camps in four coastal districts of Thua Thien and Quang Tri provinces. In Binh Duong village, more barbarously still, they buried alive 35 old, aged inhabitants and children after putting them to torture.

In coordination with their "sweeps" and concentration of the population on a large scale, the U.S.-puppets mustered a sizable effective of the Seventh Fleet and their air and naval forces in South Viet Nam and Thailand to bomb and shell densely-populated villages adjoining big cities. According to the U.S. News and World Report (December 26, from midnight Nov. to noon Nov. 2 B.52s dumped 1,600 tons of bombs on South Viet Nam, and 4,000 tons on a horseshoe-shaped region around Saigon on December 12, 13 and 14, 1968. Meanwhile, the U.S. aggressors have stepped up the spraying of concentrated toxic chemicals to an unprecedented scale. On the basis of still incomplete data, in 1968 30 of out the 44 provinces of South Viet Nam were subjected to toxic-chemical — spraying as a result of which about one hundred thousand people were poisoned, no less than one thousands killed, over one hundred thousand hectares of croplands destroyed, not to mention serious damages caused to forestland and domestic animals and fowl.

Perpetrating the afore-mentioned barbarous acts the American aggressors and their henchmen hoped to submit our people, wipe out their liberation armed forces, undermine the newly-established revolutionary power and nibble the liberated zone, thus realizing the "emergency pacification program". But they have been mistaken. The more they press, the stronger the resistance they are bound to encounter: the tide of the South Vietnamese people's struggle have in effect surged up in proportion to the barbarity of their crimes.

In strict execution of the PLAF command's November 25, 1968 order to clear the quisling administration's wicked agents and "pacification cadres", all our military and paramilitary forces throughout South Viet Nam, coordinating their action with that of the population, have mounted an energetic attack on the enemy's grip to seize power and frustrate their "emergency pacification Program".

After two months of bitter fighting, our compatriots, effectively helped by the guerrillas, have registered an initial success in destroying hundreds of "strategic hamlets" and "resettlement" zones, duly punished over a thousand cruel agents, disintegrated many to called "Eagle" groups, and knocked down or inflicted heavy losses on dozens of "pacification" units and tens of civil-guard platoons. During the second half of November 1968, in Quang Nam province and Da Nang where the adversary concentrated their efforts on the "pacification task", the population rose up and, combining their struggle with the guerilla's activities, wiped out or captured more than 950 puppet administrative agents, spies and civil guards, and disbanded a large number of "village councils". Hundreds of families left concentration areas for the liberated zone.

In Central Nambo, 22,000 people, including members of puppet armymen's families, staged marches to garrisons and military posts where they convinced the troops to oppose the "emergency pacification program" and abandon the enemy's ranks; as a result, several operations could not take place according to plan. In Rach Gia province the guerillas and people continously pressed on the adversary from November 1 to December 12, knocking down 680 U.S. and puppet troops, sinking or setting afire 32 warships — among which 80 of the U.S. river fleet — downing 9 helicopters and destroying military vehicles. In Mytho city, people captured, punished and served warning — orally or by letter — 80 administrative agents and spies. Tens of thousands of people in other cities, including Saigon, took part in teach-ins, demanding the overthrow of Thieu-Ky-Huong, the formation of a peace cabinet and serious talks with the National Front for Liberation.

All those actions by the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam against the "emergency pacification program" have wrought a strong impacts on the morale of the American and puppet troops and accelerated the steps of desertion and desintegration as well as the anti-war movement in their ranks.

Clearly, the "emergency pacification program" has been meeting with the stubborn opposition of the South Vietnamese people. Born of the enemy's losing position it cannot but reap a lamentable failure.

Despite all their vociferous assertions to the contrary — the destruction of the Viet Cong's basis and the "pacification Program" are in good progress etc. (UPI Oct. 30, 1968) — the adversary can by no means conceal the serious failure of the "emergency pacification program". Reality over the past few months has unmistakably shown that the South Vietnames people are not only in a position to foil it, but also to maintain and enlarge their liberated zone, and push up their simultaneous offensive and uprising in their drive to seize all the power in their hands.

PHAN HUU

The U.S.-puppets savagely repress the townsfolk struggling for welfare, democracy and peace. Photo: GPA

Editorial

THE U.S. MUST IMMEDIATELY REMOVE THE OBSTACLES TO THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN VIET NAM

EXPRESSING the South Vietnamese people's aspiration for peace and in order to show its serious attitude, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has put forward a just and equitable five-point position concerning a political solution with a view to a peaceful settlement of the South Vietnamese problem, and sent a delegation led by Mr. Tran Buu Kiem to attend the Paris Conference on an equal footing with the delegations of the DRVN, the USA and the Saigon administration; the NFL delegation is fully competent to resolve all questions concerning South Viet Nam. The goodwill of the NFL and the Government of the DRVN is obvious.

To date, however, the situation has not evolved along the line earnestly wished by the Vietnamese people, progressive people in the United States and peace- and justice-loving people all over the world.

On the one hand, the U.S. imperialists have stubbornly stepped up their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, accumulating countless crimes against our fellow-countrymen. Meanwhile, they prosecute reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation with aircraft and warships, infringing the sovereignty and security of the DRVN. On the other hand, the U.S. government has so far refused to discharge its responsibility and push ahead the four-delegation conference, and has tolerated the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique delaying the conference.

In addition, Thieu-Ky-Huong, supported by their American masters, have sought by every means to wreck the said conference, frantically set out against peace, turned a deaf ear to reason and gone so far as to adopt an insolent attitude to the NFL.

Washington cannot escape responsibility for having created such a situation.

IN execution of its dark scheme to make South Viet Nam a U.S. neo-colony and military base, the American governement has sent a huge expeditionary force to our country, thousands of miles away from the United States, so as to counter the South Vietnamese people.

It has rigged up a puppet administration and used it as an instrument of aggression. Resolutely and perseveringly opposed by the South Vietnamese people led by the National Front for Liberation, the U.S. imperialists have met with heavy failure in all their plans of armed aggression.

The Saigon administrative machine they have set up is collapsing by big hunks and paralysed. The puppet army supported and equipped by them finds itself in a process of rapid desintegration. The people's revolutionary power has been established everywhere and is being consolidated everywhere. The armed forces and people of South Viet Nam grow up as they fight and score ever-greater victories.

Despite its obvious defeat, the United States has not reconciled itself to abandoning its aggressive design over South Viet Nam. It obstinately clings to the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration to continue its aggressive war, preserve its neo-colonialist rule in South Viet Nam and sap every effort towards a correct settlement of the Viet Nam war. This has driven the work for the restoration of peace into a deadlock.

So long as the United States sticks to its dream of aggression, and refuses to withdraw its aggressor troops from South Viet Nam, give up its intention to use puppets in their pay for the purpose of opposing the South Vietnamese people; so long as the U.S. refuses to let the latter resolve themselves their own affairs according to the NFL's Political Program, without foreign interference, the people of South Viet Nam and of Viet Nam as a whole, will go on fighting in order to wipe out the U.S. aggressors.

So long as the United States nurtures the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, there can be no genuine negotiations, no possibility to restore peace in South Viet Nam.

It is the resolve of the South Vietnamese people to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and, as pointed out by the NFL's Political Program, to advance towards the formation of a democratic national coalition government.

So long as the United States remains stubborn and warlike, the South Vietnamese people will bend all their energies on putting into effect the appeals made by the NFL and President Ho Chi Minh, and fight until they have achieved total victory.

Nothing can shake their irondetermination to completely liberate South Viet Nam, defend North Viet Nam, proceed towards national reunification and make an active contribution to the safeguarding of world peace.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

Military Note-book

☆

EARLY **January, 1969**

PLAF Repeated Attacks and Brilliant Successes

■ *Buon Ho fortified position wiped out in 45 minutes*

IN late December 1968 and early January 1969, in the flush of their victories, the PLAF and population of South Viet Nam launched violent attacks in the mountain areas as in the plains, in the countryside as in the towns and cities. They duly chastised US-puppet troops who cynically broke off the NFL Christmas and New Year's truce, and dealt telling blows at the "emergency pacification campaign", plunging the enemy deeper into a passive position.

PLAF infantry and artillery repeatedly hammered at U.S. and puppet lairs. On the night of January 3, 15 U.S. and puppet positions in Hon Quan (Binh Long province), Cu Chi (Gia Dinh province) and Qui Nhon (Binh Dinh province) were attacked at the same time. From January 4 to 6 PLAF artillery pounded tens of positions and logistic bases, including those close by Saigon, killing or wounding hundreds of U.S. puppet and Pak Jung Hi troops, and destroying a large quantity of war material.

Worthy of note was the battle of Buon Ho. On the night of December 27 to 28, 1968, in a co-ordinated action with district troops and guerillas, the PLAF in Darlac province, Western Highlands, simultaneously attacked many positions in the capital and military sub-sector of Buon Ho district, inflicting heavy losses on operating troops and garrisoning troops. In no more than 45 minutes they put out of action 600 enemy troops, wiped out the command of an "emergency pacification team" with 10 U.S. advisers and 120 cruel "pacification cadres" (among them, 1 American major and the puppet major, deputy chief-of-staff of the 45th Regiment) and liberated people penned up in concentration camps.

WHILE Liberation regular units attacked enemy positions, local forces, militia men in the countryside and self-defence units in the towns, backed by the population, stabbed at the enemy on highways and rivers, pinning down the latter's supply convoys and isolating their posts and garrisons.

In four days only, December 27-30, 1969, local forces and guerrillas in the provinces of Rach Gia (West Nam Bo), Can Tho (Mekong delta), Tay Ninh, Bien Hoa, Binh Long, (East Nam Bo), Quang Nam, Thua Thien, (Trung Bo) fought 22 battles, sank or burnt 19 war vessels, destroyed 42 military vehicles, killed or wounded nearly 500 U.S., puppet and South Korean troops. Intercepting a convoy on highway № 13 (at 10.30 a.m. on Dec. 27, 1968) local forces in Binh Long province destroyed 20 military vehicles, killed 140 GIs, shot down 5 helicopters, captured 2 machineguns and a sizable quantity of war material.

Besides violent ripostes to operations launched by the enemy in defiance of the NFL Christmas and New Year's truce, causing tens of casualties to U.S. and puppet troops in each engagement at An Giang, My Tho, Quang Nam, Tam Ky, etc., guerrillas and local forces in Tay Ninh province successfully counter-attacked 3 puppet ranger companies at Ta Pang, bringing down 5 U.S. planes and capturing a large quantity of weapons and ammunition.

Even in such well-guarded and closely controlled cities as Saigon and Da Nang, NFL commandos and self-defence units duly punished die-hard agents preventing the population from going to church on Christmas eve or making merry on New year's Day. The bloodthirsty security agent Cao Van Ben was shot on the night of December 24, 1968 in back street 16, quarter 25 of Saigon. On the night of December 26, his colleague Quy met with the same fate while looting in a café near An Dong market on December 26, fighting back the enemy raiding the quarter of Thanh Khe in Da Nang, self-defence units killed or wounded 50 U.S. and puppet troops, destroyed an armoured vehicle and seized a large amount of material.

It is patent that the generalized offensive and simultaneous uprising of the armed forces and population in South Viet Nam have in the first days of 1969 hit the U.S. aggressors and their hanchmen in every field and every theatre.

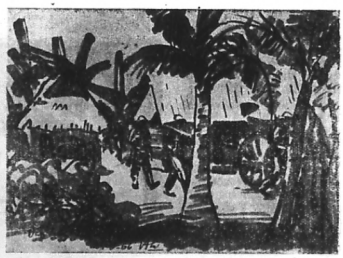
THE military situation during the last fortnight has eloquently proved that the enemy was dealt harder and harder blows, that they suffered a serious and all-round defeat. They were wiped out when in operation or defending the accesses to towns or even hidden in their urban dens. Far from being able to "pacify" the smallest area, they had to reconcile themselves to the fact that the revolutionary power had been set up in key "emergency pacification areas". In this connection, let us mention the founding of the people's administrative committee in Binh Dinh province.

The PLAF and population of South Viet Nam hold a most favorable strategic position while the mulish and bellicose U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, bogged down in a quagmire, are facing a gloomy prospect.

In the impetus of their victories, the heroic fighters and population of South Viet Nam have been forging ahead, determined to smash any military and political manœuvre of the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique in their pay.

LONG BINH

Holding aloft the banner of victory, The South Vietnamese armed forces and people valiantly march forward!
Photo: GPA



An operation in the moonlight
by HONG HAI

21 TIMES 21
or PHAN HANH SON'S
MARVELLOUS EXPLOITS

AT 21 years of age and with barely three years in the Liberation troops, company commander Phan Hanh Son has so far participated in over 100 battles, killed with his own hands 452 enemy troops, among them 152 Americans, shot down two aircraft, captured 28 weapons and been awarded on 28 occasions the titles "Valiant Aircraft Destroyer", "Determined-to-Win Fighter" and "Elite Anti-American Fighter. He has annihilated a number of enemy troops equal to 21 times his age. The Congress of Elite Fighters of Quang Nam — Da Nang commended his the "Standard Bearer of Assault Troops". Here is the story of the Non Nuoc victory as recounted by him.

THE Non Nuoc base was the lair of a unit of puppet rangers of the most cruel and dangerous kind. It stood at the gate of the city of Da Nang and was defended by every means available to the Americans and their valets. Inspired by great determination, revolved to fight and win, Phan Hanh Son and his scouts patiently studied the enemy position. He spent many nights reconnoitring it: standing neck-deep in sea water, lying hidden in the sand, slipping through outer then inner enemy defence lines... On many occasions, he ran into enemy patrols who suddenly flashed blinding lights and shouted, "Vietcong"! But the never turned a hair, knowing that it was merely a bluff and that the soldiers in fact had not seen him at all. After completing reconnaissance work, he took his scouts back to his base and set about working out a bold plan of assault.

On the night of August 22-23, 1968, his unit was the spearhead of the attack. Starting at 9 in the evening, Son and his comrades lay in wait on the sandy beach at the foot of the Non Nuoc hill. Dakotas circled in the sky, dropping dozens of parachute flares. On the ground, powerful searchlights swept the area. The Nuoc Man airfield and Non Nuoc base were illuminated by hundreds of ligths. Looking at the blue waters of the sea, the white sandy expanse of the beach, and the silhouettes of enemy patrols along the edge of the water, Son worked out a scheme to cross the halt a kilometre of open space undetected. Then, together with political commissar Binh and deputy company commander Lang, he started out at the head of his unit. It had been hard enough for him alone, as a scout, to penetrate into the base. But now he had to lead his whole unit into it!

The time for action was approaching. Gunfire broke out around them, and they still had to cross two thick barbed wire fences. But Son and his comrades would not shink before any difficulties.

H hour! Son sprang to his feet and dashed forward at the head of an assault team. He does not remember quite well how he succeeded in breaking through the two thick fences of concertina wire. But omehow he did it! His clothes were torn to shreds and he suffered multiple scratches. Son made a run for the biggest bunker, hurler a satchel charge which silenced its heavy machinegun. An enemy soldier dashed out but was immediately killed by a shot in the head. A Liberation armyman, Trung, had also succeeded in breaking through the barbed wire. He came up to give Son a hand. It was at this moment that a whole enemy company launched a counter-attack. Son and Trung were determined to cling to this bridgehead and hold the way open for their entire unit to beak through. With submachine gun and grenades, and making skilful use of captured enemy positions, the two Liberation armymen fought so doggedly and so well that the enemy thought they were facing a large number of Liberation troops.

Meanwhile, Son's unit streamed in. The Liberation troops poured a steady fire at the enemy, a whole company of whom was quickly put out of action.

Seizing upon the opportunity, Phan Hanh Son ordered an assault in three prongs. The enemy command post was smashed, the barracks nearly were cleared of their occupants.

A machinegun kept firing from a bunker but soon a shell from Son's anti-tank bazooka destroyed it. An enemy company staged a counter-attack: 15 were killed by accurate bursts of his submachinegun. At the head of his comrades, Son rushed forward, disbanding the rest of the enemy.

Within minutes, the whole ranger base was turned into an ocean of flames. An American dashed out from a house ablaze. Having run out of ammunition, Son tackled the Yank, seized his gun and knocked him into the flames.

However a snag developed: a number of enemy personnel escaped to the north of the base, where they put up a strong resistance. Son quickly discussed the situation with polical commissar Binh and deputy company commander Lang: they unanimously decided that the enemy should be hunted down and exterminated.

The whole unit again dashed forward, successfully crossed all obstacles and tracked down all fugitives. His submachinegun in hand Phan Hanh Son moved right and left, quick as lightning, giving instructions and encouragement to his comrades.

When friendly units had finished liquidating all neighbouring bases, Phan Hanh Son's company had also completed its task: destroying an enemy base half a kilometre square, annihilating three puppet ranger companies and all key centres of the Non Nuoc base.

Besides his performance as commander of the victorious company, Phan Hanh Son had killed with his own hands 49 enemy troops.

DURING his three years in the Liberation troops, whatever his position, he had always shown strong resolve, great resourcefulness, valeur and perseverance.

Right at his first engagement (Van Quat battle, May 28, 1965) when he was a mere private, he had killed large numbers of enemy troops with his automatic rifle. Then he had left his weapon in the hands of his mates and rushed forward hurling grenades, killing many more and capturing a carbine. When the carbine ran out of ammunition, he killed an enemy soldier with his bayonet, wrested his submachinegun from his hands and firing three bursts felled nine more enemy personnel. In short, during that engagement, he successively used six kinds of weapons, killed twenty enemy soldiers, captured eight and took eight weapons.

At Xuyen Tan (Duy Xuyen) he captured eight enemy soldiers and took eight carbines. In October 1965, in the first engagement against American troops at Go Ha (Hoa Vang district) Phan Hanh Son, in close-range fighting, killed ten Americans with grenades and satched charges. In a fierce battle at Dien Van, Dien Ban, he was wounded in the nock but kept fighting courageously, killing 16 Americans with grenades.

Ever since then, together with his comrades, Phan Hanh Son has fought the enemy all over the Quang Nam - Da Nang theatre of operations. He has fought resounding battles at Duy Xuyen, Dien Ban, Dai Loc, Hoa Vang taken part in fierce onslaughts on Vinh Dien, Nam Phuoc, Trung Luong, Can Dau, the Cam Le bridge, the HQ of the puppet First Corps at Da Nang, etc...

In over one hundred battles, Phan Hanh Son has constantly shown a resolute spirit of offensive. Quick as a squirrel and fierce as a tiger, he would make sudden deep thrusts which threw the enemy into utter disarray.

Born into a family of poor peasants, he had known the misery and servitude right from his childhood days. On the eve of the lunar New Year in early 1965, he bade farewell to his native village, his mother and young brother and enlisted in the Liberation army. At that time his village in Hoa Vang district was still under enemy control. Enemy agents — "pacification cadres", civil guards, puppet militia were on the prowl day and night. With tears in her eyes, his mother told him "Your father has been jailed by the U.S. - Diem clique. Our family is living in utter misery. Join the revolutionary army, my child, and fight to liberate our native land". Ever since that day Phan Hanh Son has acted on his mother's recommendations and fought for the sacred interests of the fatherland.

(GPA'S report)

Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh

SETTING UP OF REVOLUTIONARY POWER ON PROVINCIAL LEVEL

ON December 6, 1968, the People's Revolutionary Committee of Quang Nam province, as soon as it was set up, issued a statement saying that it was determined to overthrow the puppet administration of Quang Tin province, punish those who persist in serving the American imperialists, forgive those who repent of their criminal actions and praise those who achieve meritorious deeds and join the ranks of the people.

The statement also made it known that in all localities of Quang Nam province, Revolutionary People's Councils had been elected by universal suffrage at village and district level, and that in the first days of December a provincial Revolutionary People's Committee had been elected.

— In a declaration released by Giai Phong Press, the Quang Ngai branch of the NFL informed the population of the province that the puppet administration in the pay of the American aggressors had been abolished and that revolutionary power at province level had been instituted.

The declaration said that since the start of general offensives and simultaneous uprisings by the people and armed forces of Quang Ngai province, 134 villages had been entirely liberated with a population of 415,000. Elections to Revolutionary People's Councils had been successfully held in 12 districts and 134 villages.

The Quang Ngai branch of the NFL declared that the puppet administration in the pay of the Americans had been abolished at all levels — village, district and province. All those who persist in serving the American aggressors would be punished, those who repent of their crimes and mend their ways would be forgiven or even rewarded if they make themselves useful to the national cause.

It also declared that a Revolutionary People's Council and a Revolutionary People's Committee had been set up at province level in order to organise and guide the population's struggle until complete victory over the American aggressors.

— Following elections to administrative and popular bodies at village and district level, the people of Binh Dinh province elected those on province level at a congress attended by delegates of various strata of the population.

The Binh Dinh Revolutionary People's Committee elected at the congress is presided over by Nguyen Trung Tin and includes among its members a woman and a representative of the ethnic minorities.

— In November 1968, in Central Trung Bo, regional committees and the population set up People's Administrative Committees in half the villages and districts of the provinces of Gia Lai, Kontum, Quang Da, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, and at Hoi An, the capital of Quang Nam province.

39 village committees elected last December in Binh Thuan province have set about helping and guiding the people in production and combat. In Ham Thuan and Thuan Phong districts, the people's administration has allotted more than 120 hectares of land to over 300 poor peasant familiers.

At a meeting held on December 12, the people of Di Linh district elected a 7-member administrative committee

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM NFL LEADER...

(*Continued from page 1*)

In the South, they are using more and more barbarous war methods, conducting terror raids, massacring our people, and destroying villages and towns. But their schemes are sure to fail completely, however cruel and perfidious they may be...

Whatever sacrifices and hardships and no matter how fierce the war, the South Vietnamese people are resolved to fight till not a single U.S. aggressor remains in our country, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the peaceful reunification of the country, thus fulfilling the glorious mission entrusted them by the nation and their international duty"...

A document blazing with the fire of combat

A few pictures of South Viet Nam in Combat – Spring 1968

THE whole of South Viet Nam was surging forward like a tidal wave. A tempest of fire was swooping down on the American aggressors and their puppets. Feats of arms followed one another. A new stage had begun, when the war was carried into the very lair of the enemy: the towns and cities of South Viet Nam. That turning point in history took place on the night of January 31, 1968.

Following on the heels of the Liberation troops, cameramen Phuoc An, Chau Quang and twelve others shot truthful and vivid pictures of the fighting, in nearly 1,000 metres of film. The Liberation Army Studio completed the montage of the documentary and gave it the title "A Few Pictures of South Viet Nam in Combat-Spring 1968".

On the occasion of the 8th founding anniversary of the National Front for Liberation, December 20, the film was widely screened, both at home and abroad.

The documentary reflects the seething day of the offensives and simultaneous uprisings in the South. First of all it records the bitter fighting in the streets of Saigon, in the American embassy, the puppet "Independence" palace, the nerve centres, the last lairs of the American aggressors and their puppets, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique. Liberation fighters, setting at defiance enemy bombs and shells, occupy block after block, overrun one enemy position after another. The American aggressors, panic-stricken burrow like rats, putting up a weak resistance and seeking only to save their hides.

The Liberation troops are welcomed by Saigon mothers like their own sons returning home after a long absence. Girl scouts and self-defence corpsmen guide them in their hunt for cruel enemy agents. On top of big buildings, pretty Saigon girls, full of resolve, stand guard guns in hands.

The fighting in Hue is recorded with deep feeling and a concern for meaningful details. Vivid pictures show Liberation troops storming over the ramparts, hoisting the NFL banner on the flagtower, the civilian population, especially students, digging trenches, building fortifications. A fine mother taking a captured American colonel along the streets...

Also recorded is the fighting in My Tho, Da Nang and many other towns and cities: devastating artillery barrages and fierce assaults by the Liberation troops.

The nearly a year of continuous offensives and uprisings of the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam is a wonderful epic. Their brilliant exploits could only be pictured through many full-length films. But as an initial step, the documentary "A Few Pictures of South Viet Nam in Combat—Spring 1968" has recorded historic images of the South Vietnamese people's seething struggle on the battlefield.

(Excerpts from a reportage of the war-correspondent of GPA on the release of three American POW's by decision of the NFL).

Release of american POWs in South Viet Nam

A flag of the NFL fluttered over the place, which was crowded with Vietnamese and foreign pressmen of both sides, and the local people.

At 8 a.m. on January 1st, representatives of the U.S. forces in South Viet Nam came to the appointment with representatives of the PLAF Command in Eastern Nam Bo on the southern bank of Vam Co Dong river for the reception of American P.O.W.s released by decision of the NFL.

At the time set by the NFL, a helicopter of the U.S. forces landed near the flagstaff.

As a result of the criticism made by the PLAF representatives at the previous meeting, the attitude of the U.S. representatives visibly changed.

After making clear the aim and content of the second meeting, the PLAF delegation determined the procedure for the handing over of the American P.O.W.s. The American side accepted the following conditions set by the PLAF representatives :

1. They must see to it that the three released P.O.W.s be soon returned to their families. No reprisal against or repression of the released P.O.W.s. No progaganda aimed at distorting the humanitarian and lenient policy of the NFL.

2. No provocative acts during the handing over of the P.O.W.s.

3. No terror acts against the population in the area where the P.O.W.s were hand over. All armed activities of U.S., puppet and satellite troops in the area of the rendez-vous must be suspended for three hours after the actual handing over of the P.O.W.s.

The head of the NFL delegation told the U.S. side that the three American P.O.W.s would be handed over to it within one hour, at that very place. This announcement amazed the U.S. head delegate who said that was very good, and that spelled out the humanitarian spirit of the NFL.

A break began at 8.40, in the course of which the PLAF delegation held a news conference. The head of the delegation told the newsmen that the release of the American POWs occasioned by the 8th anniversary of the NFL, on the basis of the humanitarian and lenient policy of NFL toward POWs and relied troops.

The PLAF delegation was surrounded by the local people and virtually all the newsmen present. That apparently did not please the U.S. delegation which, forlorn, stayed beside the helicopter.

An hour had hardly elapsed when the three released Americans mere brought to the place. They fell in line beside the flag-staff, and stood facing the two delegations. They all looked well and chearful in PLAF uniforms.

The head of the PLAF delegation read out the statement by the PLAF, Command in Eastern Nam Bo on the release of the American POWs. He turned to the three released Americans and told them that the U.S. side had promised to ensure their security. He wished them early reunion with their families.

"Good on cac ong (Thank you, gentlemen)", said the three released Americans in Vietnamese.

Having put his signature to the minutes of the reception, the head of the American delegation shoved onto the helicopter the three former POWs. An American officer in the aircraft was seen snaking his fist at the Black GI from the POWs' camp.

The reception was over at to a.m.

Contrary to the commitment of the U.S. side, one hour only after the hand-over the U.S. side shelled and dumped steel-pellet bombs on the road suspected to be taken by the PLAF representatives.

HEAD OF STATE NORODOM SIHANOUK :

Cambodia Staunchly Supports NFL's Patriotic Struggle

GIAI PHONG Press reports from Paris that Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Deputy Head of the South Viet Nam NFL delegation to the Paris four-party conference on Viet Nam, recently received a letter from Cambodian Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, dated December 12 and delivered by the Cambodian ambassador in Paris. In this letter, Norodom Sihanouk reaffirms his vigorous support of the just stand taken by the NFL.

The message reads :

"Our ambassador in Paris has informed me of the kind regards which you asked him to transmit to me on the occasion of your visit on November 13. Please accept my sincere thanks.

I would like to assure you that Cambodia staunghly supports the patriotic struggle waged by the South Viet Nam NFL against the American invaders. In this spirit of fraternal solidarity, we extend full support to your just stand at the Paris negotiations."

• At the inauguration of the 26th National People's Congress of Cambodia on December 29, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk said :

"Cambodia demands that the U.S. stop completely its aggressive war in Viet Nam and withdraw U.S. troops totally and unconditionally from South Viet Nam."

Referring to the Saigon puppet administration, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said that Cambodia declared it "will never recognize the government and particularly the so-called character of people's representation of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique."

"At the Paris Conference, they represent themselves and have no right to represent the Vietnamese people", he added.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk stressed :

"Cambodia reaffirms that only the delegation of the DRVN Government and that of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation are the representatives of the Vietnamese people at the Paris Conference."

French youths and students demonstrating in support of the NFL
Photo : GPA

The WFTU supports the SVN struggle

The General council of the World Federation of Trade Unions, meeting in Berlin from December 16 to 19, arrived at a resolution on Viet Nam. The resolution warmly held the brilliant victories registered by the Vietnamese people in both parts of the country in the struggle against U.S. aggression, specially those of the PLAF and the population in the South in the generalized offensive and simultaneous upring since the beginning of 1968 under the NFL glorious banner.

The resolution calls on the workers and trade unions of all countries to put a struggle, demanding that the U.S. government end its war of aggression in Viet Nam, definitively stop every encroachment on the sovereignty and security of the DRVN, pull out U.S. and satellite troops from the South, and let the South Viet Nam people settle their own affairs in accordance with the NFL's political program, without foreign interference, so as to build a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and without foreign interference, resolve the national reunification problem.

The resolution appeals to the workers and trade unions of all countries to impel the movement for material to the Vietnamese people in both North and South.

Meeting of solidarity with Viet Nam in Paris

ON the occasion of the 8th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (December 20) a gathering was held in Paris on December 21 under the auspices of the World Peace Movement and the French Peace Movement.

Present were fighters and representatives of the people from nearly 20 countries.

Minister Xuan Thuy, representative of the DRVN Government, and Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, deputy-head of the SVN NFL delegation to a four-delegation conference on Viet Nam in Paris, Mai Van Bo, General Delegate of the DRVN in France, and Pham Van Ba, Director of the Paris Information Bureau of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, attended the meeting.

On behalf of the World peace movement and the French National Peace Council, Mme Yves Farge and Romesh Chandra pointed to the determination of peace fighters in the world to demand an end to the U.S. aggressive war, recognition by the U.S. of the SVNNFL as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.

Bertril Svahnstrom, President of the International Coordination Committee of the recent World Consultative Conference of Peace Forces on Viet Nam, announced the Conference's decision to make 1969 the year of international mobilization to end the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Minister Xuan Thuy and Mme Nguyen Thi Binh expressed their thanks for the support and assistance given to the Vietnamese people by the world people and organizations. They denounced the U.S. and its Saigon puppets for delaying the four-delegation conference in Paris and the U.S. for intensifying its war in South Viet Nam and continuing to encroach upon the DRVN's sovereignty and security.

A communique was adopted at the gathering, demanding that the U.S. and Saigon administration give up their design to delay the four-delegation conference on Viet Nam, in which the NFL would participate as an independent delegation enjoying equal status with the other delegations. The communique also demanded that the U.S. cease encroaching upon the DRVN's sovereignty and security, pull out its troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs, without foreign interference.

On the 13th Anniversary of the founding of the Neo Lao Haksat

WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE SIDE OF THE FRATERNAL LAO PEOPLE

ON January 6, the Neo Lao Haksat, the present leader of the Lao people and the organizer of all their victories, is thirteen years old.

Succeeding the Neo Lao Issala (Lao freedom front) after the resistance against the French colonialists, the new front has taken over the heavy and glorious task of carrying on the struggle for the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos against U.S. imperialism the most ferocious enemy of the world people today.

Under the clearsighted leadership of the Neo Lao Haksat with Prince Souphanouvong at its head, the Lao people, displaying their traditional qualities of heroism and indomitability, have inflicted telling blows upon the American aggressors and their lackeys and frustrated all their war plans. The resounding victories won by the Lao patriotic forces during the 1967-1968 dry season — 16,844 enemy troops put out of action, 109 planes downed or destroyed on the ground, 5,429 weapons captured, 1,343 villages liberated — basically foiled the U.S. "special war" and portend the inevitable fiasco of the aggressor forces.

Overcoming hard trials and fighting for each of land, the Lao people have now become master of two-thirds of their territory. The liberated zone inhabited by more than one half of the population and continuously strengthened, supplies inexhaustible material and human resources to the resistance. National Union is cemented with every passing day. The Consultative Political Conference (September 7-13,1968) between the Neo Lao Haksat and the Patriotic Neutralist Forces has reaffirmed their will of unshakable union in the face of U.S. aggression, for national salvation and of compromising struggle until final victory. The success of the Conference disposes of all the U.S. efforts to divide the patriotic forces, put them against one another.

The Extraordinary Congress of the Neo Lao Haksat held from October 25 to November 1, 1968 has adopted a Political Program which lays down the goals of struggle and taken concrete measures so as to further broaden the bloc of national union, stimulate the resistance for national salvation and hasten its triumph. This outstanding political event has ushered in a new phase full of prospects for the patriotic forces in their ardious path toward the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, united and prosperous Laos.

The great and glorious successes recorded by the Lao people and their armed forces over the past thirtheen years irrefutably prove that the line followed by the Neo Lao Haksat is absolutely correct and conform to the people's aspirations. They enhance the Front's prestige and confirm its prominent role in the evolution of the situation in Laos and in the international arena.

Though hard beaten the American aggressors and their lackeys, however, are bending their energies to intensify the war while launching a slanderous campaign against the resistance of the Lao people in an attempt to rivile it and cover up their obvious setbacks. But the Lao people, united as one man and prompted by a staunch will to fight and win, will preserve their gains and surely smother the aggressor forces in the fire of the war that the latter themselves have kindled.

We all the more applaud the victories of our brother and neighbour as the Lao people are always stood on our side in our own combat against U.S. imperialism. We have shared similar trials with them against the same ferocious enemy. Their valiance and perseverance have always been a strong stimulus for us. Only recently on the 8th anniversary of the founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Prince Souphanouvong sent to President Nguyen Huu Tho a message of congratulations which pointed out : The Lao Patriotic Front (Neo Lao Haksat) reaffirms that its positions is to regard the NFL as the authentic representative of the fourteen million South Vietnamese and to firmly back the four-point stand of the DRVN government and the five-point statement of the NFL. Only by implementing these correct, logic and reasonable Vietnamese problem can be settled.

On the occasion of this memorable day for Laos, the fourteen million South Vietnamese convey to its armed forces and people the expression of their heartfelt gratitude. The unswerving stand of the South Viet Nam NFL is well-known, namely, to support reservedly and with might and main the just and victorious fight of the Lao people against U.S. aggression of our warmest wishes for more brilliant victories under the leadership of the Neo Lao Haksat. May the solidarity between our two peoples in struggle for their independence and freedom, for the restoration of peace in Indochina grow fighter with every passing day.

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